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Notes on the Amydetinae (Coleoptera: Lampyridae)
in McDermott's 1966 catalogue of Lampyridae

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Abstract. Nomenclatural changes are proposed and herein implemented for several beetles in the family Lampyridae (Coleoptera). Corrections of authorship are proposed for *Psilocladus marginatus* (Lewis), *Psilocladus ruficollis* (Kiesenwetter), and *Dryptelytra fulvipennis* E. Olivier. Dates of publication are corrected for *Magnoculus marginatus* (Guérin-Méneville), *Psilocladus calvus* Kirsch, *Psilocladus peruvianus* Kirsch, and *Vesta vitellinothorax* (Perty) a synonym of *Vesta thoracica* (G. A. Olivier). “*Dodacles grandjeani* E. Olivier” is found to be a *nomen nudum*, which actually refers to *Dryptelytra grandjeani* (E. Olivier).

Key words. Fireflies, nomenclature, authorship, date of publication.

Introduction

Frank Alexander McDermott (1885–1966) was a biochemist by trade but studied and published on fireflies between 1910 and 1967. His most important works were his taxonomic treatment of Lampyridae (McDermott 1964) and the extended and revised version of E. Olivier's lampyrid catalogue (Olivier 1910; McDermott 1966). A recent search for the primary descriptions of fireflies in the subfamily Amydetinae led to the discovery of several problems concerning authorship and dates of publication for several species in McDermott's (1966) catalogue. These mistakes appear to be typographical errors made while writing the catalogue, as McDermott's literature notecard database contains the correct dates. Authorship corrections were based on an examination of the original literature. Difficulties in obtaining all the pertinent literature could have also led to incorrect citations. Current online databases such as the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (www.itis.gov) are based on McDermott's catalogue and therefore carry these inaccuracies forward. In this manuscript we address these issues and propose corrections for each case.

Materials and Methods

Records in McDermott's catalogue (1966) were compared with the original descriptions of the species and McDermott's handwritten notecards, which were assembled for the production of his 1966 catalogue. These notecards were subsequently given to J. B. Buck, who then passed them on to J. E. Lloyd, who passed them on to M. A. Branham (personal communication J. E. Lloyd). Most errors appear to be typographical errors made during the writing of the catalogue.

Results and Discussion

Authorship

***Psilocladus marginatus* (Lewis, 1895)**

Cyphonocerus marginatus Lewis 1895: 115

Psilocladus marginatus Nakane, 1947; McDermott 1966: 85 [incorrect authorship]

***Psilocladus ruficollis* (Kiesenwetter, 1879)**

Cyphonocerus ruficollis Kiesenwetter 1879: 312

Psilocladus ruficollis Nakane, 1947; McDermott 1966: 85 [incorrect authorship]

Note. Nakane (1947) only reviewed the Japanese *Psilocladus* and made no comments about a change in authorship for either species above. Therefore, both species are again attributed to the original authors.

***Dryptelytra fulvipennis* E. Olivier, 1912**

Dryptelytra fulvipennis E. Olivier 1912a: 25

Dryptelytra fulvipennis Pic, 1912; McDermott 1966: 84 [incorrect authorship]

Note. McDermott listed E. Olivier (1912a) as the author on his notecard (Fig. 1a) entry for this species. McDermott also noted an uncertain citation for Pic (1912) (indicated by a question mark; Fig. 1a). Olivier's (1912) description of *D. fulvipennis* was clearly intended to be for a new species (indicated by "nov. sp."), and even after a thorough search through volumes of L'Échange (as listed in the catalogue) from 1912 and surrounding years no article written by Pic includes a description of this species.

Dates of Publication

***Magnoculus marginatus* (Guérin-Méneville, 1855)**

Megalophthalmus marginatus Guérin-Méneville 1855: 579

Magnoculus marginatus (Guérin-Méneville, 1885 [sic]); McDermott 1966: 79

Note. McDermott's notecard already contained the wrong citation (Fig. 1b), but the original description was published in 1855.

***Psilocladus calvus* Kirsch, 1870**

Psilocladus calvus Kirsch 1870: 365

Psilocladus calvus Kirsch, 1871 [sic]; McDermott 1966: 85

Note. Description year of 1871 was based on a typographical error (Fig. 2a).

***Psilocladus peruvianus* Kirsch, 1873**

Psilocladus peruvianus Kirsch 1873: 387

Psilocladus peruvianus Kirsch, 1874 [sic]; McDermott 1966: 85

Note. Description year of 1874 was based on a typographical error (Fig. 2b).

***Vesta thoracica* (G. A. Olivier, 1790)**

Lampyris thoracica G. A. Olivier 1790: 81

Lampyris vitellinothorax Perty 1830: 27 [syn.]

Lampyris vitellinithorax [sic] Perty 1832 [sic]: 27; McDermott 1966: 81

Vesta vitellinithorax [sic] (Perty, 1832 [sic]); McDermott 1966: 81

Note. Description of species is on page 27 of Perty (1830–1833). Pages 1–60 were published in 1830, the remaining pages in subsequent years. Also corrected is the misspelling of the species epithet by McDermott from ‘*vitellinithorax*’ to the correct ‘*vitellinothorax*’.

Miscellaneous

Dryptelytra grandjeani E. Olivier, 1899

Dryptelytra grandjeani E. Olivier 1899: 84

Dodacles grandjeani E. Olivier, 1912 [*nomen nudum*]; McDermott 1966: 83

Note. McDermott erroneously included the species name “*Dodacles grandjeani* E. Olivier 1912” in his catalogue. This was most likely based on a mistake while adding citations to different species in the genus *Dodacles*. Olivier (1912b) only included a short discussion of “*Dryptelytra grandjeani* E. Olivier 1899”, rather than a new species description of “*Dodacles grandjeani*”. We therefore propose “*Dodacles grandjeani*” is a *nomen nudum*, and is an unavailable name in *Dodacles* and to be removed from the catalogue.

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Dryptelytra fulvipennis Paraguay,
(Sapucay)
~~Pic~~
EO, A 5 E B, 1912, LVI, p 25.
14 mm
Elongate, black; El. fulvous. Pn short, somewhat angulate
forward, margin coarsely punctate, disk almost smooth.
El. deliriant, rugulose costate, inters valde attenuatis;
apices acute & shorter than abd. Pyg. trilobed, with
dull yellow spot on each side
Pic, L'Echange, 1912, XXVIII, p 25(?)
QL-461 561

1a

Megophthalmus marginatus Brazil?
Colombia
Guérin, 1886, p 579, Verh. zool.-bot. Verein, Klein,
1886, p 579, Verh. zool.-bot. Verein, Klein,

1b

Figure 1. McDermott's original handwritten literature notecards. **a)** Notecard showing the citation for the original description of *Dryptelytra fulvipennis*. **b)** Notecard showing McDermott's incorrect citation for *Magnoculus marginatus*.

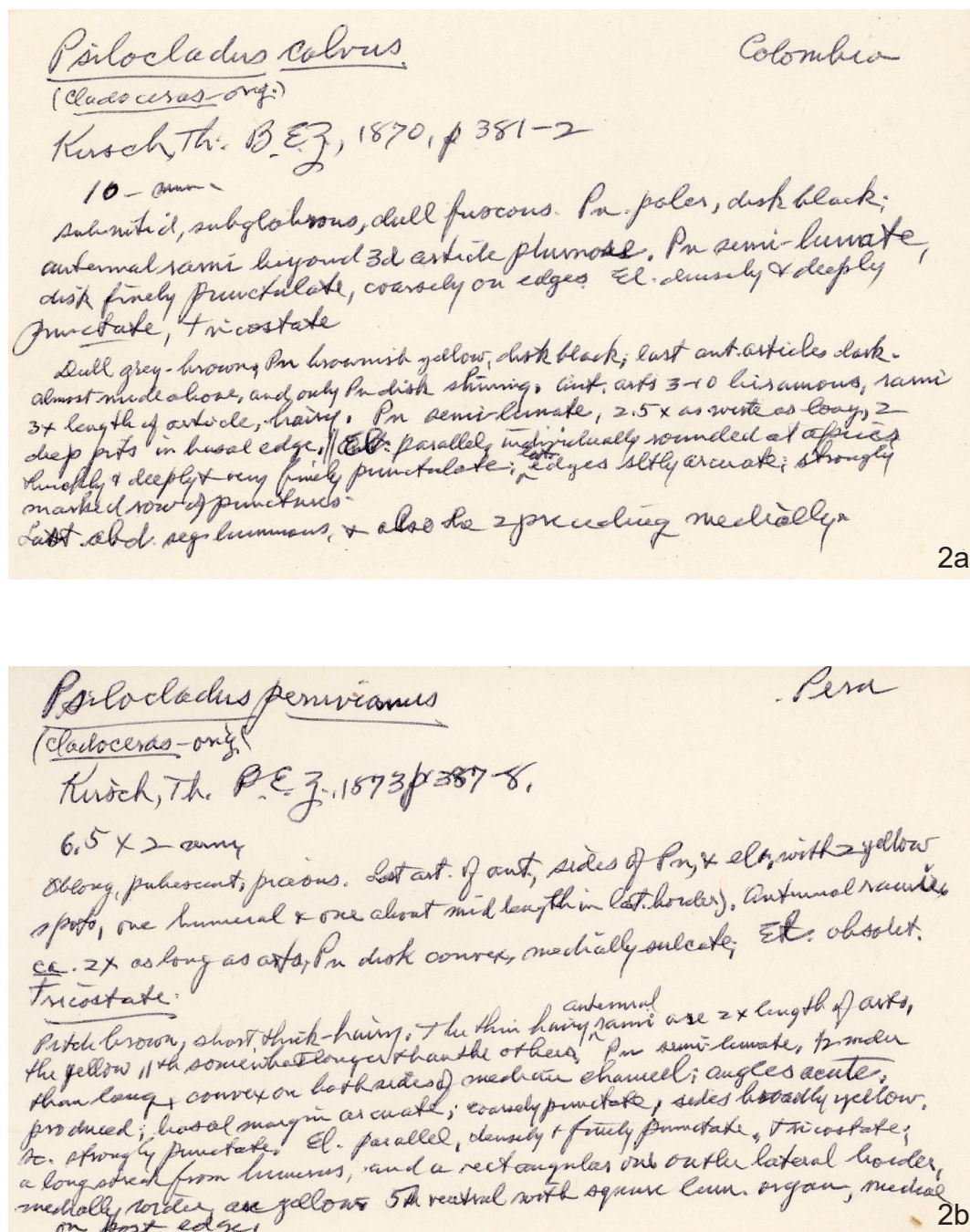


Figure 2. McDermott's original handwritten literature notecards. **a)** Notecard showing the citation for the correct year of publication for *Psilocladus calvus*. **b)** Notecard showing the citation for the correct year of publication for *Psilocladus peruvianus*.